



# Rockville Reports

DECEMBER 2019 • VOL. 65 #10



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Rockville's 66th Mayor and Council: (L to R) Councilmembers David Myles and Beryl L. Feinberg, Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton, and councilmembers Mark Pierzchala and Monique Ashton.

## Voters Re-elect Bridget Donnell Newton as Rockville Mayor

*Ashton, Feinberg, Myles and Pierzchala Elected to Council Seats*

Rockville voters re-elected Bridget Donnell Newton as mayor, with 7,600 votes, or 63.69% of the total in the City of Rockville's historic Vote by Mail election, which concluded Nov. 5.

Four councilmembers were also elected: Monique Ashton, Beryl L. Feinberg, David Myles and Mark Pierzchala.

The Mayor and Council serve four-year terms.

Newton, a 38-year resident of Rockville, will return to the mayor's seat for a third term. She also served two terms as a councilmember. Mayoral challenger Virginia D. Onley received 4,261 votes, or 35.71%.

The top four vote-getters for council seats were:

- Monique Ashton, with 5,701 votes (12.59%).
- Beryl L. Feinberg, with 5,676 votes (12.53%).
- David Myles, with 5,181 votes (11.44%).
- Mark Pierzchala, with 4,822

votes (10.65%).

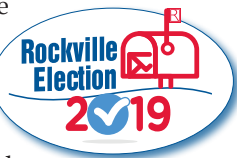
Feinberg was elected to her third term. Pierzchala was elected to a second consecutive term and fourth term overall. He previously served two two-year terms from 2009-2013.

Complete results and additional information can be found at [www.rockvillemd.gov/election](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/election).

This is the 66th election in the history of the City of Rockville and the first Vote by Mail election in Maryland history.

A total of 12,287 ballots were cast in this election, versus 6,468 cast in 2015, an increase of 89.96%. Voter turnout increased from 15.9% in 2015 to 27.7% in 2019.

The new Mayor and Council were sworn-in at an inaugura-



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## Eyes Up Rockville: Stay Alert When You Drive and Walk

Traveling in winter, with snow, ice and precious little daylight, can be treacherous for pedestrians and motorists alike.

The Mayor and Council will discuss pedestrian safety in Rockville during their meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 16. Last year, the Mayor and Council endorsed Vision Zero, setting a goal of eliminating traffic-related deaths and serious injuries on Rockville roads by 2030 through improved road design, traffic law enforcement and education.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration offers safety tips for walking and driving. Here are a few:



### Driving Safety Tips

- Look out for pedestrians everywhere, at all times. Safety is a shared responsibility.
- Use extra caution when driving in hard-to-see conditions, such as nighttime or bad weather.
- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and stop well back from the crosswalk to give other vehicles an opportunity to see crossing pedestrians so they can stop too.
- Never pass vehicles stopped at a crosswalk. There may be people crossing that you can't see.
- Follow the speed limit, especially around people on the street.

- Follow slower speed limits in school zones and in neighborhoods where children are present.



### Walking Safety Tips

- Be predictable. Follow the rules of the road and obey signs and signals.
- If there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic and as far from traffic as possible.
- Keep alert at all times; don't be distracted by electronic devices that take your eyes (and ears) off the road.
- Whenever possible, cross streets at crosswalks or intersections, where drivers expect pedestrians. Look for cars in all directions, including those turning left or right.
- If a crosswalk or intersection is not available, locate a well-lit area where you have the best view of traffic. Wait for a gap in traffic that allows enough time to cross safely; continue watching for traffic as you cross.
- Never assume a driver sees you. Make eye contact with drivers as they approach to make sure you are seen.

Find more pedestrian safety tips at [www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/pedestrian-safety](http://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/pedestrian-safety), on Rockville 11 and at [youtube.com/cityofrockville](http://youtube.com/cityofrockville). Search "pedestrian safety." ❖

## Rockville Facilities to Close for the Holidays

City Hall and all city facilities will be closed Wednesday, Dec. 25 for Christmas Day and Wednesday, Jan. 1 for New Year's Day.

Recycling and trash will be collected as usual on Monday and Tuesday during those weeks. All other collections will occur one day later than usual. Find more information at [www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash).

City Hall will also be closed 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12, for an annual recognition event for city employees. Other city facilities will operate on the following schedule this month:

- Beginning the week of Dec. 16, the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre box office will be open only from 2-7 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays. The box office will resume regular hours Tuesday, Jan. 14. Tickets are always available at [www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre).
- Lincoln Park, Thomas Farm and Twinbrook community centers will be

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## Looking Back on a BIG Election Year

# 2019

The biggest news was perhaps the historic, first-in-Maryland-history Vote by Mail election, and plenty of other happenings made 2019 a hectic year in the City of Rockville!

### JANUARY

Judson Smith's 1938 mural of Sugarloaf Mountain in the lobby of the Rockville City Police Department station became part

of the U.S. Postal Service's 2019 **Forever Stamp** series.

Rockville's Mayor and Council bid **farewell to Councilmember Julie Palakovich Carr**, who had been elected to serve in the Maryland House of Delegates.

The city stepped up to **support furloughed federal workers** from Rockville who were impacted by a government shutdown, delaying payment, with no penalties, on

certain city services, such as summer camp registration, preschool and before- and afterschool care, water bills and even animal registration fees.

### FEBRUARY

**Lobby and locker room modernizations** were greenlit at the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center with the award of a bid to City Construction LLC of



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### In This Issue...

- 2** Rockville is One of the Best Small Cities
- 3** Perfect Marks (Again) for LGBTQ Support
- 4** Meet the City's Pedestrian and Bicycle Coordinator
- 6** Senior Center to Unearth Time Capsule

### SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER!

Go to:  
[www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters)

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## Planning Commission to Hold Public Hearing on Stonestreet Amendment

The City of Rockville's Planning Commission will hold a public hearing Wednesday, Jan. 8 to hear testimony on the public hearing draft of the Park Road and North/South Stonestreet Avenue Area Comprehensive Master Plan Amendment.

The Planning Commission's meeting begins at 7 p.m.

Testimony on the draft may be provided as follows:

- In writing to the City of Rockville Planning Commission, c/o Comprehensive Planning, Planning and Development Services, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.
- By email to [planning.commission@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:planning.commission@rockvillemd.gov).
- In person at the Jan. 8 public hearing at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave.

For more information, contact Andrea Gilles at [agilles@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:agilles@rockvillemd.gov) or 240-314-8273.

Visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/2004/Stonestreet-Corridor](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/2004/Stonestreet-Corridor) to view the amendment.



## Rockville Makes Annual List of Best Small Cities

Rockville has made WalletHub's annual list of Best Small Cities in America for 2019.

For the rankings, WalletHub compared 1,268 cities for affordability, economic health, education and health, quality of life, and safety. Rockville's total score was 64.55. The city placed in the 85th percentile, ranking highly in the categories of education and health (62nd), quality of life (83rd) and safety (29th).

Cities selected by WalletHub had population sizes between 25,000 and 100,000. Comparisons were based on 42 key indicators of livability, from housing costs and school-system quality to restaurants per capita.

In February, WalletHub ranked Rockville ninth overall and fourth among small cities in the U.S. for ethnic diversity.

Data used for the ranking were collected from the U.S. Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Areavibes, TransUnion, TripAdvisor, RealtyTrac, County Health Rankings, Yelp and WalletHub research.



**Help the Rockville City Police Department Take the Plunge**

**Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge Friday, Jan. 24**

**Sandy Point State Park, Annapolis**

**Pledge in Support of Rockville's Plunge Team • Support Special Olympics Maryland**

**Visit [bit.ly/RCPDPlunge2020](http://bit.ly/RCPDPlunge2020)**

## 2019, What a Year

*continued from pg. 1...*

Washington, D.C. The construction, depending on the weather, is expected to be completed this winter.



### MARCH

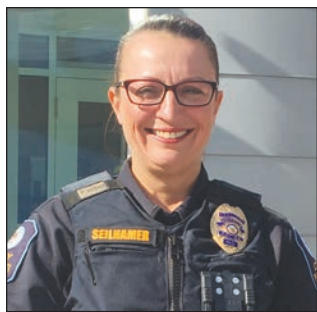
Rockville launched a communitywide effort to fight back against the opioid crisis gripping communities across the United States. The city's awareness campaign kicked off with a program featuring Chris Herren, a former professional basketball player and recovery advocate who founded The Herren Project.

The Mayor and Council adopted a master plan change for Montgomery County Public Schools and Montgomery County properties on Stonestreet Avenue as follow-up to the **Stonestreet Corridor Study**.

Niles Anderegg was named Rockville's **new deputy city clerk** in the City Clerk/Director of Council Operations Office.

The city announced it had installed **seven new bus shelters** to add to the comfort and accessibility of bus stops with high ridership along Rockville Pike, Veirs Mill Road and Taft Street, adjacent to David Scull Park.

Chief of long-range planning, David Levy, was named assistant director of planning and business improvement, and also to act as an ombudsman and **point of contact for Town Center**.



Rockville police officer Jan Seilhamer was promoted to the rank of lieutenant, becoming the **first woman to attain command level** at Rockville's police department.

### APRIL

Results of the 2018 **Community Survey** were

**delivered**. Rockville residents said they believe their city has high-quality, secure neighborhoods where they can raise children and retire, that Rockville is respectful to different cultures and beliefs, and is a city committed to creating a welcoming community for all backgrounds.

Rockville launched a telephone hotline and website for community members to **report potential fraud, waste and abuse** related to city government services and employees. For more information, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/fraud-waste-abuse](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/fraud-waste-abuse).

**Thomas Farm Community Center celebrated its 10th birthday** with an open house.

### MAY

The City of Rockville heard from the public about what they'd like to see happen at the **Rockshire Village Center**, a vacant 7.32-acre former shopping center at the corner of Wootton Parkway and Hurley Avenue.

Rockville continued taking steps to **improve pedestrian safety** in Rockville Town Center at Beall Avenue's intersections with Gibbs Street and Maryland Avenue. Flashing signals and street lights were installed, trees removed for better sightlines, and speed limits were reduced, among other initiatives.



### JUNE

**Laura Lanham became Rockville's deputy chief of police**. Lanham came to the city with 28 years of law enforcement experience from the Montgomery County Police Department.

A **newly created Pedestrian Advocacy Committee** began work to address concerns about pedestrian safety and walkability in Rockville. About 30 residents attended the committee's first meeting at City Hall, including city civic association leaders and Richard Montgomery High's cluster coordinator, a representative from the city's Traffic and Transportation Commission,

and the chief of the city's Traffic and Transportation Division.

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation's **pilot for e-scooters and e-bikes** rolled out to areas of the county, including Rockville.

The Mayor and Council voted to use a master planning process, with significant involvement from the public, to help **determine future uses for the former 18-hole RedGate Golf Course**. However, the Mayor and Council said they will wait until an ongoing strategic planning process for the city's recreation, parks and facilities is complete before making final decisions on the approach to the master planning process.

### JULY

A panel of **Urban Land Institute experts visited Rockville** for two days to explore and offer recommendations for enhancing the vibrancy of the city's Town Center. Nine panelists from varying backgrounds and areas of expertise toured the area, conducted interviews, worked on recommendations and made a public presentation.

John Foreman, a professional planner with more than a decade's experience, was selected to **lead a new customer-focused services center** in the Planning and Development Services Department. The section's mission is to improve Rockville's development review and permitting processes.

### AUGUST

Friends and neighbors of all fitness levels and abilities gathered at Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park for an afternoon of **Bankshot basketball** and fun awards.

Mark Landahl arrived in the Rockville City Police Department to **serve as the city's emergency manager**, where he is tasked with creating an emergency preparedness plan for all city departments, and strategies to help the city mitigate, respond to and recover from emergencies.

### SEPTEMBER

Formally kicking off election season, **15 candidates were certified to run in Rockville's Vote by Mail Mayor and Council election** — two for mayor, 13 for

council.

The Urban Land Institute panel delivered a 42-page report detailing their **recommendations on ways to strengthen the vitality of the Town Center** area. Among them: Retaining significant employers; attracting anchor uses; building density in Town Center without compromising character; strengthening relationships and connections with Montgomery College and the Montgomery County Board of Education; and redesigning both East Middle Lane and North Washington Street to make them friendlier to pedestrians, bikers, drivers and others.

More than 100 people attended as Rockville **cut the ribbon on four brand-new pickleball courts** at Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park.



### OCTOBER

The F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Festival honored "The Joy Luck Club" **author Amy Tan** with the 2019 F. Scott Fitzgerald Award for Outstanding Achievement in American Literature.

More than 38,000 **ballots were distributed** through the mail to voters in Rockville's historic Vote by Mail election.

### NOVEMBER

Voters re-elected Bridget Donnell Newton as Rockville's mayor and council members Monique Ashton, Beryl L. Feinberg, David Myles and Mark Pierzchala in the **first Vote by Mail election in state history**. Rockville's 66th Mayor and Council were sworn in Nov. 17 and held their first meeting Nov. 18. *See the article on page 1.*

Rockville made **WalletHub's annual list of Best Small Cities in America for 2019**. *See the article on the sidebar column of this page.*

### DECEMBER

Read about December's events in this edition of "Rockville Reports." ❖



**HUMAN RIGHTS DAY, THE ROCKVILLE WAY ...** Human Rights Day is Dec. 10. On that day in 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The city's Human Rights Commission will mark the day with information, quotes, questions and photos on the city's social media and at [www.rockvillemd.gov/humanrights](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/humanrights), to prompt ideas, conversation and action around preservation and respect for human rights. Learn more about Human Rights Day at [www.un.org/en/events/humanrightsday](http://www.un.org/en/events/humanrightsday).



## Get Involved with the City

Stay informed of the business before city leaders and share your thoughts:

- **Follow the action in person:** Meetings are at 7 p.m. on most Mondays, at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., or follow from home on channel 11.
- **Stop by a drop-in session:** The mayor and one councilmember meet with community members one Monday each month from 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- **Speak at Community Forum** (up to three minutes): Community Forum is held during each Mayor and Council meeting. Priority is given to speakers who have signed up in advance by calling 240-314-8280 by 4 p.m. on the day of the meeting, and to those who are speaking on an agenda item.
- **Send an email** to mayor council@rockvillemd.gov.
- **Testify at a hearing** or in writing to cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov or by mail to the City Clerk's Office, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.
- **Volunteer** to be on a board or commission. Learn more below and find other ways to give of your time and tal-



mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov



**Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton:** 240-314-8291 • bnewton@rockvillemd.gov  
**Councilmember Monique Ashton:** 240-314-8295 • mashton@rockvillemd.gov  
**Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg:** 240-314-8293 • bfeinberg@rockvillemd.gov  
**Councilmember David Myles:** 240-314-8294 • dmyles@rockvillemd.gov  
**Councilmember Mark Pierzchala:** 240-314-8292 • mpierzchala@rockvillemd.gov

**Meetings: Monday, Dec. 9 and 16 at 7 p.m. Visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter).**

Drop-in sessions are held monthly at 5:30 p.m. in the Mayor and Council office. No appointment necessary. Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton will be joined by Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg on Dec. 9.

ents at [www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer).

## Boards and Commissions

Anyone interested in serving on a board or commission may write to: Mayor and Council, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, call 240-314-8280, or fill out and submit an expression of interest form at [www.rockville](http://www.rockville)

md.gov/boardscommissions. Note: Meetings are held at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., unless otherwise noted.

- **Dec. 3 Asian Pacific American Task Force** 7:30 p.m.
- **Dec. 5, 12, 19 Development Review Committee** 9 a.m.
- **Dec. 5, 10, 19 Board of Supervisors of Elections** 6 p.m.
- **Dec. 10 Human Services**

Advisory Commission 6:30 p.m.

- **Dec. 11 Environment Commission** 7 p.m.
- **Dec. 11 Planning Commission** 7 p.m.\*
- **Dec. 12 Board of Appeals** 7 p.m.
- **Dec. 18 Rockville Housing Enterprises** 6:30 p.m. David Scull Courts Community Center, 1133 First St.
- **Dec. 18 Rockville Sister City**

Corporation 7 p.m.

- **Dec. 18 Human Rights Commission** 7:30 p.m.
  - **Dec. 19 Historic District Commission** 7:30 p.m.\*
- \*Televised on Rockville 11.

## Vacancies

The Mayor and Council are seeking applicants for the following boards and commissions:

- Animal Matters Board (1 alt.)
- Board of Supervisors of Elections (1)
- Cultural Arts Commission (2)
- Environment Commission (1)
- Ethics Commission (1)
- Financial Advisory Board (1)
- Historic District Commission (3 reg., 1 alt.)
- Human Rights Commission (2)
- Human Services Advisory Commission (3)
- Landlord-Tenant Affairs Commission (1)
- Planning Commission (1)
- Recreation and Park Advisory Board (1)
- Recreation and Parks Foundation, Inc. (1)
- Retirement Board (1)
- Senior Citizens Commission (2)
- Traffic and Transportation (2)

For more, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions) or call 240-314-8280.

## Upcoming Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Calendar

<b>DEC. 9</b>	Mayor and Council Discuss Budget, Budget Process and Calendar, and Hear General Fund Preview
<b>DEC. 16</b>	Budget Public Hearing
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	Presentation of City Manager's FY 2021 Proposed Budget (Date TBA)
<b>MARCH-APRIL</b>	Budget Public Hearings and Work Sessions (Dates TBA)
<b>MAY</b>	Adoption of the FY 2021 Budget (Date TBA)

## Mayor and Council to Begin Budget Work Dec. 9; Public Hearing is Dec. 16

The Mayor and Council are scheduled to first discuss their Fiscal Year 2021 budget priorities, budget process and calendar, and hear a preview about the general fund, during their meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 9 at City Hall.

A public hearing, part of the Mayor and Council meeting on Monday, Dec. 16, will give community members their first chance to provide in-person input for development of the operating budget and Capital Improvements Program for FY 2021, which begins July 1.

The budget process gives community members multiple opportunities to provide input on the budget.

The city manager's proposed budget will be presented in February. Public hearings and work sessions will be held during Mayor and Council meetings

in March and April, on dates yet to be announced. The Mayor and Council are scheduled to adopt the FY21 budget in May.

Rockville's Fiscal Year 2020 operating budget totals \$138.9 million.

For more information, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/budget](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/budget) or call the Finance Department at 240-314-8400. ✚

## SPEAK UP

Report potential fraud, waste and abuse related to City of Rockville government services and employees.

Call 1-866-921-6714

Email [rockvillemd@integritycounts.ca](mailto:rockvillemd@integritycounts.ca)  
 Visit [www.integritycounts.ca/org/rockvillemd](http://www.integritycounts.ca/org/rockvillemd)  
 For more information, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/fraud-waste-abuse](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/fraud-waste-abuse).

## Rockville Earns Top Score for LGBTQ Support for Third Year City Scores Perfect Marks on Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index

For the third year in a row, Rockville has scored perfect marks on the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index for the city's commitment to the health, welfare, safety and equality of its lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community.

Rockville scored 100/100 on the scorecard, along with, Baltimore, Columbia and Frederick, out of the 10 Maryland towns and cities rated on the 2019 scorecard.

The eighth annual MEI scorecard, released Tuesday, Nov. 19, analyzes and rates 506 municipalities across the country,

measuring each for the inclusivity of laws, policies and services for their LGBTQ communities. Overall, 88 cities in the U.S. earned the highest possible score.

Cities are rated across 49 different criteria, covering citywide nondiscrimination protections, policies for municipal employees, city services, law enforcement and the city's leadership on LGBTQ equality.

"This year's Municipal Equality Index shows that across the country, city leaders are working tirelessly to ensure that their constituents can secure housing, make a living and participate in community life with-

out being discriminated against because of who they are," HRC president Alphonso David said in a statement accompanying the MEI scorecard's release.

The 2019 MEI report can be found at [www.hrc.org/mei](http://www.hrc.org/mei). ✚

## 2019 MEI Maryland Rankings

Rockville .....	100
Baltimore .....	100
Columbia .....	100
Frederick .....	100
Gaithersburg .....	93
College Park .....	86
Towson .....	86
Annapolis .....	76
Bowie .....	60
Hagerstown .....	54

## City Legislative Priorities: Aid for Schools and Seniors, Protection of Homes Maryland General Assembly's 90-Day Session Begins Jan. 8

Rockville's 2020 state legislative priorities include school construction, opposition to the state taking homes or businesses as part of plans to widen

Interstate 270, a noise barrier along I-270, and senior services.

Under priorities approved *continued on pg. 7...*

## Elections Results

*continued from pg. 1...*

tion ceremony on Nov. 17 at F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Find coverage of the ceremony on Rockville 11 (channel 11 on county cable) and at [youtube.com/cityofrockville](http://youtube.com/cityofrockville).

In April 2018, the Mayor and Council voted unanimously to follow the Board of Supervisors of Elections' recommendation to implement Vote by Mail for the fall 2019 election. Encouraging more people to vote in city elections has been a priority for the Mayor and Council. ✚



**STAY INFORMED:** The Mayor and Council meeting schedule and agendas can be found at [www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil). Staff reports with background information are included with the agendas, which are posted several days before each meeting.



## Green Giving and Electronics Recycling

Do you plan on giving new electronics as a gift for the holidays?

For products that help reduce environmental impacts and energy costs, look for Energy Star-qualified and Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool-registered products. Find more green gift ideas from Montgomery County's Gift Outside the Box Campaign at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dep/gift-greener.html](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dep/gift-greener.html).

Rockville collects and recycles electronics, such as cell phones, computers, televisions and holiday lights.

To make a bulk waste or electronics recycling collection appointment, call 240-314-8568. For more information on recycling and trash service or holiday tree collection, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash) or see the article on page 5.

## Lunar New Year: Save the Date to Celebrate

Celebrate Rockville's Asian cultures with performances, crafts and cultural displays at the city's Lunar New Year celebration.

The annual celebration will be held from 1-3:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, at Rockville High School, 2100 Baltimore Road. Multicultural performances will be from 1:30-2:45 p.m. The city is organizing the celebration in partnership with Rockville's Asian Pacific American Task Force.

In its 12th year, the Lunar New Year celebration is a source of pride for the city's Asian community and an educational opportunity for neighbors to learn about Asian culture. The celebration will mark 4718, the Year of the Rat on the Chinese Zodiac calendar. One in three Rockville residents was born outside the United States and 54 percent of the city's foreign-born population was born in Asia, according to the city's planning department.

Interested in participating by providing a Lunar New Year-themed activity or craft? Contact Amanda Knox at [aknox@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:aknox@rockvillemd.gov) for more information.

Find additional details, as they become available, at [www.rockvillemd.gov/lunarnewyear](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/lunarnewyear).



*Forging Freedom:*  
Endurance and Escape  
on Rockville's  
Underground Railroad

## Peerless to Unveil Exhibit on Rockville and the Underground Railroad

A new Peerless Rockville exhibit exploring the history of the Underground Railroad in Rockville opens this month at the historic Red Brick Courthouse.

"Forging Freedom: Endurance and Escape on Rockville's Underground Railroad" opens with a reception at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6 at the Red Brick Courthouse, 29 Courthouse Square. This exhibit explores life under slavery in Rockville, the courageous stories of fugitives from Rockville, and the network of abolitionists, agents and conductors who assisted slaves in their flights to freedom. The reception is free. A \$5 donation is suggested. Light refreshments will be served.

Learn more at [www.peerlessrockville.org](http://www.peerlessrockville.org) or call 301-762-0096.



**Holiday Shopping?**

Save Money While Supporting Your Community.

Buy a Rockville Rewards card and get discounts at nearly 150 Rockville businesses. Proceeds support nearly 30 community nonprofits. [www.rockvillerewards.com](http://www.rockvillerewards.com)

## Meet a Rockville Employee:



## Alyssa Roff

Alyssa Roff, a senior transportation planner, and the city's pedestrian and bicycle coordinator, has been on the job since Oct. 21. We asked her to answer a few questions to introduce her to the community.

**What does a transportation planner do?**

*I work with transportation policies, projects and committees to help provide safe connections for people to get around Rockville. For the city, I focus mainly on cyclists and pedestrians.*

**Where were you before coming to Rockville?**

*I was a transportation planner for the City of Gaithersburg.*

**You also serve as the liaison to the Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee. How are you helping the committee to partner with the city in making Rockville's streets safer for all?**

*My role as the staff liaison is to offer transparency and spaces for collaboration. For each committee, I make sure everyone has a chance to provide their concerns and ideas for making city streets safer – the more creative ideas the better. I also provide updates on city projects so everyone can gauge what actions the city is taking.*

Find tips for safe walking and driving on city streets this winter on page 1. ❄️

## Peerless Honors Stewardship, Landscaping and a History Book

The 40th annual Peerless Rockville awards ceremony, held Nov. 15 at Lakewood Country Club, recognized efforts to preserve Rockville's historic and architectural character. This year's honorees were:

- John Williams and Gail Monahan (owners), Jeff Broadhurst (architect), Bill Schweinsberg (contractor) and Al Delancy and Jim Warner (carpenters) for the rehabilitation/renovation and stewardship of a historic property at 103 S. Washington St.
- Max and Mary Van Balgooy, for landscaping at 313 Twinbrook Parkway.
- Rockville Cemetery Association, Burt Hall, president, and Elise Polydoroff, director, for landscaping, stewardship and sustainable design at Rockville Cemetery, 1350 Baltimore Road.
- Posthumous recognition of Warren Crutchfield for his lifetime of preservation advocacy, promotion of community history and stewardship of historic properties, including Haiti

Cemetery. To learn more about Crutchfield's efforts, visit [youtube.com/cityofrockville](http://youtube.com/cityofrockville) and search "Haiti Cemetery."

- Jamie Kuhns, author; Joey Lampl, a cultural resources manager and Kuhns' supervisor; museum manager Shirl Spicer; and museum educator Lisa MacLeman; all of Montgomery Parks, who received the Wagman Award, for Kuhns' book "Sharp Flashes of Lightning Come from Dark Clouds: The Life of Josiah Henson." Named for Arthur M. Wagman, a Peerless Rockville founder, the award honors outstanding achievements by writers, educators, historians and others whose work has heightened public awareness of Rockville's heritage.

Peerless Rockville is an award-winning, community-based nonprofit founded in 1974 to preserve buildings, objects and information important to Rockville's heritage.

Learn more at [www.peerlessrockville.org](http://www.peerlessrockville.org) or call 301-762-0096. ❄️

## Matching Grant Program Seeks Projects to Improve Rockville Communities

*Applications Available Dec. 13*

The city's matching grant program seeks to help neighbors work together to accomplish common goals supporting the health, vitality and inclusivity of the place they call home.

The application period for the Community Empowerment Grants program opens Friday, Dec. 13. Applications are due Thursday, Jan. 30.

Neighborhood, civic or homeowners associations; community groups; organized groups of neighbors; and student groups are eligible to apply. Neighbors and organizations who are willing to match funding through cash, in-kind donations and volunteer hours are eligible for these competitive grants.

Applications are reviewed and grants are awarded by the City Manager's Office. Grants typically range from \$500-\$1,000 each, must benefit a clearly identified area within the city limits and may address any or all of the following objectives:

- **Building community:** Projects that promote the development or sustainability of a neighborhood

association or community group.

- **Community improvement projects:** Projects that improve the shared space within a neighborhood or strengthen community identity. This may include landscape improvements and maintenance, signage, bus shelters, natural features management, benches, painting, or certain exterior improvements. Bonus points will be awarded if two or more groups work together on a project.
- **Livability initiatives:** Projects that provide educational and outreach opportunities that strengthen social connections between neighbors or neighborhoods. This may include improving safety, addressing a neighborhood challenge or conflict, serving low-income seniors, or finding ways to welcome newcomers to Rockville.

Grant funds will be available after Friday, Feb. 28.

For applications and additional information, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/communityempowerment](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/communityempowerment). ❄️



### WON'T YOU BE MY (GOOD) NEIGHBOR? ...

Rockville's Mayor and Council presented Good Neighbor Awards on Nov. 18 to (L to R): Germaine Diouf; Tracy Jackson; Peter Lovell (at rear, in hat), Kathleen Moran (at rear), Madeline Jackson, Sergio Diaz, Jonathan Walker, Joanne Gladden (daughter of Marsha Schwartz), Sorell Schwartz, collecting on behalf of his wife Marsha Schwartz; Eric Fulton; and Melvin Hawkins. Not pictured: Matt Goenner; Arthur Goldberg; and Mike Stein. Learn more about the good deeds of these good neighbors and view video of the awards presentation at [bit.ly/GoodNeighbors2019](http://bit.ly/GoodNeighbors2019). Learn more about the awards at [www.rockvillemd.gov/goodneighbor](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/goodneighbor).



**MORE NEWS, MORE OFTEN, ON YOUTUBE ...** Now on Rockville 11's YouTube channel ([www.youtube.com/cityofrockville](http://www.youtube.com/cityofrockville)): Rockville wraps up its historic Vote by Mail election; get a recap of the 66th Mayor and Council inauguration – or watch it in its entirety; see how the city commemorated Mayor Phyllis Marcuccio; and meet Rockville's good neighbors, with coverage of the annual awards.



# Snow and Tell: How the City Helps Residents Be In-the-Know About Snow

## Quick Links, Facts and Phone Numbers

When winter weather strikes, turn to the city's website at [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov).

Closure and snow emergency information will be available on the website, as well as through Facebook ([www.facebook.com/cityofrockville](http://www.facebook.com/cityofrockville)) and Twitter (@rockville411), and by signing up for Alert Rockville notifications at [www.rockvillemd.gov/alerts](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/alerts).

City crews treat and plow roads in the following priority order:

- 1) Primary roads that consist of major arterial roads, emergency routes, central business districts and primary residential roads near schools.
- 2) Secondary roads that consist of the remainder of neighborhood streets, alleyways and cul-de-sacs. To check if an address is within the city limits, find the Address and Residency Check map at [www.rockvillemd.gov/maps](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/maps).

Removing snow from sidewalks, driveways and entrances is the responsibility of the property and/or business owner or occupant unless a community association has assumed the responsibility. Snow and ice must be cleared from all paved sidewalks abutting a property as follows:

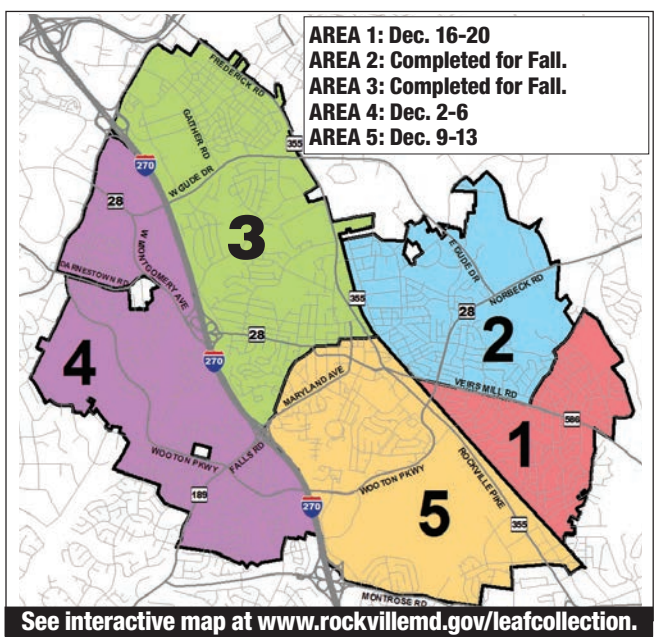
- Up to 3 inches: Clear within 24 hours.
- 3 to 9 inches: Clear within 48 hours.
- 10 inches or more: Clear within 72 hours.

If residents can do so, they should clear snow from around fire hydrants. To report a sidewalk that has not been cleared within the required timeframe, call 240-314-8330.

Seniors may request assistance with clearing snow from their property. Assistance is provided by volunteers and coordinated through the Rockville Senior Center. To volunteer or to request snow-shoveling assistance, call 240-314-8819 or the Senior Center Support Services office at 240-314-8810 or visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/winterweather](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/winterweather). ❄️

### NUMBERS TO KNOW

Emergency .....	911
Rockville City Police Dept. (non-emergency) .....	240-314-8900
Report a Downed Tree to the City .....	240-314-8700
City of Rockville Dept. of Public Works .....	240-314-8500
Rockville Recreation Programs Cancellation Line .....	240-314-5023
Report a Power Outage to Pepco .....	1-877-737-2662
Water Main Breaks/Sewer Line Overflows .....	240-314-8567
Montgomery Co. 24-Hour Crisis Center Hotline .....	240-777-4000
(Anyone in Montgomery County who needs assistance to stay warm can visit the county Crisis Center at 1301 Piccard Drive.)	
Rockville City Hall .....	240-314-5000



## Leaf Collection: Last Call for Fall

### Final Collections Conclude this Month

Rockville crews will complete vacuuming leaves from neighborhood curbs for the fall season this month, making the second of two rounds in Area 1, 4 and 5. Collections in Areas 2 and 3 were scheduled to be completed for the season by Nov. 29. (See the map, above.)

Rake leaves next to, but out of, roadways, gutters and bike lanes, and away from parked vehicles. Leaves should be raked by 6 a.m. on the first day of their collection period, but no earlier than one week before the collection dates to avoid grass damage or fire hazards. Remove sticks and other objects from leaf piles. Avoid parking near leaf piles or other vehicles.

After the collection period ends, use biodegradable paper lawn bags or 32-gallon trash cans (without plastic garbage bags) to set leaves out on your refuse and recycling collection day. Use alternative disposal methods such as mulching or composting. Do not dump leaves, grass clippings or other yard waste into storm drains, along stream banks or directly into streams, where they can cause blockages that contribute to localized flooding or release nutrients that lead to fish kills. ❄️

**ALERT Rockville**

**Winter is coming!**  
**And snow!**

Get an **Alert Rockville** account at [www.rockvillemd.gov/alerts](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/alerts).  
Be even more in-the-know when it snows, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/winterweather](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/winterweather).

## How to Think Green When You See the White Stuff

### Environmentally Friendly Snow- and Ice-Removal Tips

Follow these tips to keep your driveway and sidewalks ice-free, while minimizing the environmental impact.

**Shovel Early, Shovel Often**

Removing fresh snow before it has a chance to harden into ice is the best way to keep your pavement clear. Deicers work best on thin layers of snow or ice that need to be melted, so shovel first, break up any ice patches you can and then add the salt.

**Apply Salt Sparingly**

Scatter the deicer and leave space between the grains. A 12-ounce coffee mug full of salt is enough to treat a 20-foot driveway or 10 sidewalk squares. Using more than the recommended amount of salt won't speed up melting.

**Buy Early and Check Labels**

Buy your de-icing product before the big storm, so you don't end up staring at empty shelves in the stores. Check the label before you buy — although slightly more expensive, calcium chloride (CaCl<sub>2</sub>) requires less salt, works at lower temperatures and does not contain cyanide, unlike sodium chloride (NaCl, rock salt). Urea is sometimes promoted as “lawn-friendly,” as excess urea will act as a fertilizer. However, the application rate for urea is far greater than your lawn would require, and most of the excess urea will only end up “fertilizing” the stream.

**Avoid Kitty Litter and Ashes**

While these products are environmentally friendly, they are only marginally effective at adding traction, and don't melt ice. If you need traction, mix in a small amount of sand and use less salt as a better option.

## Don't Let a Clog Become an Unwanted Holiday House Guest

When the holiday feast is finished, don't pour fats, oils and grease (i.e., FOG) down the drain, including sauces, gravy and salad dressings.

FOG poured down sinks solidifies when deposited into sewer lines, trapping solids and forming hard deposits that can cause blockages in pipes. Blockages can lead to basement backups and sewer overflows, which can mean costly damage to city infrastructure and private property.

Follow these tips to help prevent clogs and blockages:

- Avoid placing food in the garbage disposal.
- Use the garbage disposal only in rare instances. Do not regularly use it to grind up food waste.
- Pour FOG into an empty can, let it cool to solidify and dispose of it as refuse.
- Scrape food and grease into the garbage before washing dishes.
- Use a paper towel or napkin to wipe away cooking oil or grease before washing dishes.

For tips about FOG for food service establishments, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/fog](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/fog). For more information, call the Environmental Management Division at 240-314-8870.



## Tree Recycling Makes the Holidays Greener

Rockville collects holiday trees as part of its recycling collection and takes them to the Montgomery County Recycling Center, where they become mulch.

The mulch is available year-round for free, at the center, at 16105 Frederick Road, next to the Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station.

Place trees at the curb for pickup on regular recycling and trash collection days after removing all ornaments and metals, wires, stands and decorations, including tinsel. Trees should not be bagged. There is no deadline for curbside collection of trees.

Artificial trees cannot be recycled and should be placed in the gray trash cart for regular weekly collection. Artificial trees that are too large to fit in the cart can be collected by appointment as one of six bulk collections allowed per year or taken to the transfer station.

For bulk-waste disposal information, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/bulkwaste](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/bulkwaste).

## Throwing It Away? Be Cart Smart

Throwing out plastic bags, clothes, garden hoses, needles or medical sharps? Please don't use the brown recycling cart — put them in the gray trash cart.

To find a nearby grocery store that accepts plastic bags for recycling, visit [bit.ly/howtorecyclebags](http://bit.ly/howtorecyclebags).

Help the city keep its recycling and trash collection crews safe. Workers can get stuck by medical sharps and syringes that are not in suitable disposal containers.

To dispose of medical sharps and syringes, use containers made of heavy-duty plastic that close tightly with a puncture-proof lid. Label the container and place it in the middle of your household trash in the gray trash cart — or find a disposal program.

Find more community guidelines about safe disposal at [bit.ly/howtorecyclesharps](http://bit.ly/howtorecyclesharps).

Got a city recycling or trash cart that's falling apart? Damaged lift bars on city recycling or trash carts can cut customers and crew members. Call 240-314-8568. We'll replace it for you.



**ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS FOR ALL SEASONS ...** For environmental news and events, and tips for helping the environment year-round, sign up to receive the city's Environment and Sustainability quarterly newsletter in your email inbox. Visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters) and select “Environment and Sustainability.”



## Looking for Employment this Summer?

Become a Certified Lifeguard or Swim Instructor

The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center will once again hold American Red Cross lifeguard training and recertification courses this winter.

Earning a lifeguard training certification is a great way to prepare for a summer job and learn important lifesaving and leadership skills.

Lifeguard training students must be 15 years old by the last day of the course and pass a prescreening test on the first day of the session. This involves swimming 300 yards continuously, with rhythmic breathing and using front crawl or breast stroke; retrieving a 10-pound brick within one minute, 40 seconds; and treading water using legs only for two minutes.

Times and dates for the sessions vary. Visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter) and select "Classes & Lessons" to view the complete course flier. Register at [www.rockvillemd.gov/registration](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/registration). Space is limited for the sessions. Classes will be held at the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, 355 Martins Lane.

A detailed course schedule/syllabus will be provided on the first day of class. To become certified, students must successfully complete the prescreen test, attend and actively participate in all course sessions, successfully complete class activities and pass a final written exam. Proof of age is required.

## Show Your Love of Rockville's Rec and Parks in Student Art Contest

Students in grades K-12 are invited to submit a photo of their artwork showing why they love Rockville Recreation and Parks.

If selected, that artwork could end up being featured in future City of Rockville promotional materials!

Two winners will be selected in each of the following categories:

- Cultural arts: ballet, theater, visual arts, music, etc.
- Parks and nature.
- Recreation: sports, swimming, camps, etc.

Winners will receive a stipend credited to their Rockville recreation account to use for registration of future activities.

The deadline to enter is Friday, Feb. 14. Notification for winning entries will be Friday, Feb. 21. Winners may be required to submit their original works.

For more information, email [elisdeal@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:elisdeal@rockvillemd.gov). For an entry form and details, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/studentartcontest](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/studentartcontest).



LEARN MORE ABOUT  
THE CITY ON  
ROCKVILLE 11  
[www.youtube.com/cityofrockville](http://www.youtube.com/cityofrockville)

## We Need Your Support!



**Rockville Recreation and Parks Foundation** is a 501(c)3 organization established to:

- Improve recreational activities, programs, parks and facilities.
- Support the Rockville Youth Recreation Fund.
- Assist with fundraising, and the acquisition and maintenance of new parks and open space.
- Purchase equipment and other amenities for the city's parks and facilities.



Please send your tax deductible gift to:  
200-B Monroe St.  
Rockville, MD 20850  
[www.rvpfi.org](http://www.rvpfi.org) • 240-314-8867

# 45 Years of 'The Nutcracker,' Victorian Opera in the 21st Century and a Chance to Meet Santa

A Rockville tradition returns for its 45th year, an opportunity to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus, and celebrate the Holiday with festive music. Here's what's happening in December at the Rockville Civic Center:

**The Rockville Civic Ballet presents "The Nutcracker."**  
2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 7 and 14; 2 p.m. Sundays Dec. 8 and 15.

Join Clara on the 45th anniversary in Rockville of her magical journey! Directed by Eleanor Simpson. Tickets cost \$17; for seniors 60 and older and children 12 and younger, \$13.

**Glenview Mansion and Peerless Rockville Speaker Series presents the Victorian Lyric Opera Company.**

7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12, at Glenview Mansion, 603 Edmonston Drive.

Bringing Victorian opera alive in the 21st century. Free.

**Holiday Festival at the Civic Center**

1-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21, at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre

Social Hall, 603 Edmonston Drive.

An afternoon of holiday fun. Enjoy holiday decorations, arts and crafts, a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, and musical performances. Free and open to the public.

**The Rockville Concert Band presents, "Christmas at the Cinema."**  
3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22.

Soundtracks of favorite holiday movies, under the direction of John Saint Amour. No tickets required, but a \$5 donation is suggested.

**The Rockville Chorus presents "Holiday Harmonies."**

7:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 22.

Seasonal music under the direction of Bryan Seith. No tickets required; donations appreciated.

For tickets or more information, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre), call the box office at 240-314-8690, or email [theatre@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:theatre@rockvillemd.gov). F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre is located at 603 Edmonston Drive. +

## Senior Center Readies for Unearthing of Time Capsule

The year was 1995. Bill Clinton was in the White House. The trial of O.J. Simpson was captivating the nation. Martina McBride was set to headline Rockville's Hometown Holidays and James Coyle was the city's mayor.

And in May, a time capsule bearing hopes and wishes from residents of the time was buried at the Rockville Senior Center, with plans that it would be unearthed in May 2020, 25 years on from when it was placed.

"Within the capsule the citizens of Rockville, Maryland, have placed messages and memorabilia for future generations to view,"

a plaque adorning a stone marking the capsule's location reads today.

The plan is still to unearth that capsule at the appointed time, but staff at the Senior Center need to know which items to return to whom. Envelopes handed out at the time were used to donate items. Receipts that were issued were to be redeemed for the items when the capsule was dug up.

If you have a receipt ticket, or believe a loved one may have put something in the capsule for you to retrieve, please contact the Rockville Senior Center at [seniorcenter.rockvillemd.gov](http://seniorcenter.rockvillemd.gov) or 240-314-8800. +

## Get Fit at the Swim and Fitness Center Without Getting Wet

The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center is a great place to swim and stay in shape year-round, but you don't have to dive in a pool for your workout!

The center has several land-based classes, including Zumba, Teen Fit and yoga. For adults, the center offers Pilates, circuit training, Zumba, Bootcamp and yoga. Whatever your experience level, the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center has a class that can help you be more fit and healthier.

If you're not into classes, the facility also has a fitness room with ellipticals,

treadmills, rowing machines, step climbers and a variety of strength-training equipment.

To see fitness classes at the swim center, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/registration](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/registration) and select "Rockville Swim and Fitness Center" under location and "Fitness" as the category.

Winter registration opens Thursday, Dec. 5. Find Rockville Swim and Fitness Center pool schedules, seasonal hours, personal training opportunities and more at [www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter). +

## Rockville's Summer Programs Keep Kids' Minds and Bodies Thriving Camps and Playgrounds Start in June

It's never too early to start thinking about what to do with your kids over a summer break — and Rockville's summer programs are open to everyone, not just city residents!

### Summer Blast

Summer Blast, Rockville's affordable, flexible all-day camp, returns to four locations with swimming, field trips, arts, crafts, games and special events. Participants can register by the week or for the whole summer.

Summer Blast provides full-day care, 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. June 22-Aug. 13.

Other camp opportunities include Tiny Chefs Cooking, Mad Science, Lego Invention, robotics, Dramatic Kids, Abakadoodle and Steel Soccer (formerly U.K. Elite). New this year, Rockville is partnering with Adventure Theater to provide a theater camp at F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Camps are for kids age 4-16.

### Summer Playgrounds

The summer will also be packed with things to do for kids age 6-12 who take part in Rockville's Summer Playgrounds, held at nine park and school locations throughout the city. In this six-week program, children



spend time with friends, enjoy crafts and water activities, and play sports and games. Playgrounds runs from June 29-Aug. 6.

Find out more about the city's summer program for kids and teens in the "Summer Camps Guide 2020," which will be available online and in print Monday, Jan. 13 at city facilities and Rockville libraries. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21. Register early to take advantage of a convenient plan that allows payment for summer programs in four installments.

For a summer season preview, drop by the city's booth at the 2020 Montgomery County Camp and Summer Fun Expo, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26, at the Hilton Hotel Meeting Center, 1750 Rockville Pike.

For more information, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/camps](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/camps). +

Connect with us on Social Media.



**WHAT ARE WE CELEBRATING THIS MONTH?** Human Rights day and month, of course (see the ticker on page 2), and the holidays, but also December is the month for AIDS awareness, root vegetables and exotic fruits, worldwide food service safety, ties, pears, and car donation. This is also the month for spiritual literacy, writing a business plan and Operation Santa Paws, encouraging us to donate items to our furry friends in animal shelters.



# December CALENDAR

**CC** Croydon Creek Nature Ctr., 852 Avery Rd., 240-314-8770.

**GM** Glenview Mansion, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8660.

**FSF** F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8690.

**LP** Lincoln Park Community Ctr., 357 Frederick Ave., 240-314-8780.

**CH** Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., 240-314-5000.

**SR** Rockville Senior Ctr., 1150 Carnation Dr., 240-314-8800.

## FACILITIES LEGEND:

**SFC** Rockville Swim and Fitness Ctr., 355 Martins Lane, 240-314-8750.

**TF** Thomas Farm Community Ctr., 700 Falls Grove Dr., 240-314-8840.

**TC** Twinbrook Comm. Rec. Ctr., 12920 Twinbrook Pkwy., 240-314-8830.



DEC 5



DEC 7



DEC 22



DEC 27

**3 ROCKVILLE SENIOR CENTER REGISTRATION OPENS.** 8:30 a.m. **SR**

**5 GENERAL AND NONMEMBER REGISTRATION OPENS** for Recreation and Parks programs. 8:30 a.m. **CH**

**5 NATURE TOTS: BIRDS OF PREY.** Discover the wonders of nature with your child. Each session, a naturalist helps you delve into a different nature topic through nature play, crafts, stories and hikes. Dress for the weather. Adult participation required. Spaces limited. Ages 2-5. Register with course #11181. \$8R/\$10NR. 10-11:30 a.m. **CC**

**6 FORGING FREEDOM: ENDURANCE AND ESCAPE ON ROCKVILLE'S UNDERGROUND RAILROAD OPENING RECEPTION.** See article on page 4. 7 p.m. Red Brick Courthouse, 29 Courthouse Square.

**7 HOLIDAY BAZAAR.** Sponsored by Rockville Seniors, Inc. Handmade crafts, book sale, raffle, bake sale, plant sale, gift and thrift shop. Lunch available to purchase. Vendor space available: Must be handmade items. \$25 per table for senior center members; \$35 for nonmembers. Email [seniorcenter@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:seniorcenter@rockvillemd.gov) or call 240-314-8800 for an application. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. **SR**

**7 COOKIES WITH SANTA.** Visit with Santa in his workshop! Includes holiday crafts, cookie decoration, letters to Santa and more. Children must be accompanied by an adult and all participants must register. Ages 2 and older. Register with course #10490. \$8R/\$10NR or \$10 per person at the door. 2-4 p.m. **TF**

**7 ROCKVILLE CIVIC BALLET PRESENTS "THE NUTCRACKER."** A holiday classic that has become a Rockville tradition. Join Clara on her magical journey! 2-4:30 p.m. and 7:30-9:30 p.m. Dec. 7 and 14; and 2-4:30 p.m. Dec. 8 and 15. See article on page 6. Tickets: \$17; \$13, seniors 60-plus and children 12 and younger. **FSF**

**8 NATURAL HOLIDAY CRAFTS.** Use a variety of natural or recycled objects to make holiday crafts and ornaments. Each participant will complete at least three projects. Adult participation required for children younger than age 8. Ages 5 and older. Register with course #11187. \$12R/\$14NR. 2-3:30 p.m. **CC**

**8 ROCKVILLE ART LEAGUE JURIED MEMBERS' EXHIBIT.** Reception and meet the artists. Free. See article on page 8. 1:30-3:30 p.m. **GM**

**12 GLENVIEW MANSION & PEERLESS ROCKVILLE SPEAKER SERIES.** "Bringing Victorian Operetta Alive in the 21st Century," presented by the Victorian Lyric Opera Company. Free. See article on page 6. 7-8:30 p.m. **GM**

**14 LITTLE ACORNS: READY FOR WINTER.** Explore nature with your little ones through a variety of play-based activities. Time will be spent outdoors, weather permitting. Adult participation required. Spaces are limited. Advanced registration recommended. Ages 18-36 months. Register with course #11174. \$7R/\$9NR. 10-11 a.m. **CC**

**19 HOLIDAY DRIVE DONATION DEADLINE.** See article on page 8.

**21 A HOLIDAY FESTIVAL AT THE CIVIC CENTER.** Enjoy decorations, food, Santa and Mrs. Claus, plus arts and crafts. Free. 1-4 p.m. **FSF**

**22 ROCKVILLE CONCERT BAND PRESENTS "CHRISTMAS AT THE CINEMA."** Hear the soundtracks of your favorite holiday movies. No tickets required; \$5 suggested donation. See article on page 6. 3-5 p.m. **FSF**

**22 MENORAH LIGHTING** in Rockville Town Square. Free. 4:30 p.m.

**22 ROCKVILLE CHORUS PRESENTS "HOLIDAY HARMONIES."** No tickets required; donations appreciated. See article on page 6. 7:30-9:30 p.m. **FSF**

**27,30 ADVENTURE DAY.** An adventure on your day off school. An offsite field trip; time spent enjoying games and activities. Register with course #12023 for Dec. 27, #12024 for Dec. 30. \$30R/\$35NR. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. **TF**

**27 WINTER ADVENTURE-SNOW TUBING.** A trip to Boulder Ridge, at Ski Liberty, or Whitetail Resort for an afternoon of snow tubing. Pack or bring money to purchase food. Transportation included. Additional information emailed prior to trip. Age: 11-15. Register with course #11557. \$40R/\$45NR. 2-8 p.m. **LP**

R = Residents • NR = Nonresidents • MEM = Member • NM = Nonmember

FOR MORE INFO AND UP-TO-DATE EVENT LISTINGS: [WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV/CALENDAR.ASPX](http://WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV/CALENDAR.ASPX)

## Closures for December

continued from pg. 1...

- open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 24, 26 and 31; and closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.
- Croydon Creek Nature Center is always closed Mondays and will also be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. The center will be open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Dec. 24 and Dec. 31, and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 26.
- The Rockville Senior Center, including the fitness room, will close at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 24 and Tuesday, Dec. 31. It is closed Sundays and will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.
- The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center will be open 6 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 24 and 31 and closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter) for lap and program schedules.

Parking at city-owned meters will be free on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

For more information, call 240-314-5000 or visit [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov). ❄️

## Legislative Priorities

continued from pg. 3...

- by the Mayor and Council on Nov. 18, and presented to the Montgomery County delegation on Nov. 20, the city will advocate for:
- Increased school construction funding from the state to address overcrowded and aging school facilities in Rockville and across the 165,000-student county school system.
  - No Rockville homes, businesses or infrastructure to be taken by the state's proposed project to widen interstates 270 and 495. The Mayor and Council continue to vigorously advocate in support of Rockville property owners.
  - The State Highway Administration to fulfill its commitment to build the West End Park Noise Barrier Project, which will protect homes north of the I-270/MD 28 interchange. The city awaits word as to whether the barrier will be funded as part of the state's

I-270 and I-495 Managed Lanes Study, or through an agreement with SHA to fund 80% of the cost.

- Enhanced funding for senior programs and services to address transportation and recreation needs and assist with the establishment and awareness of villages and other programs to help seniors age in place. Rockville's senior population is projected to grow to 19,140, or 22% of the city's population, by 2040.
- The formation of an independent redistricting commission after each decennial census, with equal membership from political parties and of voters not affiliated with the two major parties. The commission would recommend to the state legislature a map of congressional districts that are geographically contiguous, encourage compactness and respect the geographic integrity of local governments.
- Protection of the authority of a municipality to assert local control over

the siting and aesthetics of small cellular communication infrastructure, and to impose a fee for permit review and rental of space in a municipal right of way.

- Permanent restoration of municipal Highway User Revenue funding. Fiscal Year 2020 is the first year of a five-year funding increase included in the state budget for the aid, which is used for road maintenance and small infrastructure-improvement projects. However, the \$2.7 million in aid to Rockville is just under 82% of the pre-recession amount of \$3.3 million allocated for the city in FY 2008.

The 2020 state legislative session runs from Jan. 8-April 6 in Annapolis. For more details on these and other issues at the state level that the Mayor and Council are monitoring, find the Nov. 18 staff report and video of the discussion at [www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter), or contact Linda Moran at [lmoran@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:lmoran@rockvillemd.gov) or 240-314-8115. ❄️



## Gallery to Exhibit Rockville Art League Members' Work

Meet the artists of the Rockville Art League at an opening reception for their exhibit, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery.

The varied-media artwork of the Rockville Art League Juried Members' Exhibit will be on display from Dec. 8-Jan. 24.

Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, and 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Thursday. The gallery is closed on official holidays.

The Glenview Mansion Art Gallery at the Rockville Civic Center is located at 603 Edmonston Drive.

## Dec. 20 Deadline for Community Grant Applications

An application for community organization grants for Fiscal Year 2021, which begins July 1, is available at [www.rockvillemd.gov/communitygrant](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/communitygrant).

Grants are awarded annually to local organizations that partner with the city to enhance the quality of life of Rockville residents through education, community engagement or other activities that benefit the Rockville community. Applications are due Friday, Dec. 20.

Call 240-314-8104 for more information.

# EYES UP ROCKVILLE

There are No Do-Overs with Human Lives

DRIVERS, WHEN PASSING THROUGH POPULAR PEDESTRIAN AREAS, IT'S IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THESE SAFETY RULES:

- 01 Stay alert. Look out for pedestrians—keep your phone tucked away and your eyes on the road.
- 02 Follow posted speed limits.
- 03 Make eye contact with pedestrians so they know that you are stopped and they can cross.
- 04 When the weather is bad or it's dark outside, it's harder to see oncoming pedestrians. Make sure your lights are on and exercise extra caution.
- 05 Be vigilant. Pedestrians may appear suddenly, and you need time to stop.

[rockvillechamber.org/safety-campaign](http://rockvillechamber.org/safety-campaign)

# EYES UP ROCKVILLE

There are No Do-Overs with Human Lives

PEDESTRIANS, WHEN USING THE CROSSWALKS, IT'S IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THESE SAFETY RULES:

- 01 Keep your phone in your pocket and your eyes on the road.
- 02 Never assume that drivers can see you or that they're paying attention. To remedy this, wear light clothing, stay in well-lit areas, and make eye contact with drivers.
- 03 Stop at the curb, look left, right, and left again before crossing the street.
- 04 Don't step in the way of a closely approaching vehicle that doesn't have ample time to yield to a pedestrian.
- 05 Make sure you are within the crosswalk's boundaries



## 2020 CENSUS



## BECAUSE YOU COUNT

Your participation is worth

**\$18,250** **\$12,170** **\$45,960**  
IN MARYLAND IN VIRGINIA IN D.C.

Our community loses thousands of dollars in federal funding over a 10-year period for **each person** who does not fill out their Census survey. **COMPLETE YOUR CENSUS SURVEY.**

## IMPORTANT, SAFE & EASY

Respond by mail, phone, or online. Your personal information is legally protected and confidential.

Learn more at [www.2020Census.gov](http://www.2020Census.gov)



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DESIGNED BY

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION  
Prince George's County Planning Department



**HOLIDAY FESTIVAL AT THE CIVIC CENTER ... Santa and Mrs. Claus will visit the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre and Social Hall, 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21, for an afternoon of holiday fun with decorations, arts and crafts, and musical performances. Free and open to the public.**

## MLK Jr. Day Celebration to Feature Performances, Community Service

Rockville's 48th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday, Jan. 20 at Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive, will include diverse performances, awards and a keynote speech focused on the theme of "Light in the Midst of Darkness."

The celebration is free and open to all ages. There will be community service activities beginning at 11 a.m., along with information booths and free refreshments before the program. The program will be-

gin at noon in the auditorium.

To learn more about the celebration as details become available, including opportunities to participate in the service activities, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/mlk](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/mlk).

### Volunteers Needed

Organizers are also seeking volunteers to help with setup, cleanup, tech and stage crew, ushering and more. Student Service Learning credit is available. For more information, contact Janet Kelly at 240-314-8316 or [jkelly@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:jkelly@rockvillemd.gov). For information about accessibility, call 240-314-8108. ✚

## 2019 Holiday Drive Continues in December With Annual Gift Drive

The Rockville Holiday Drive is beginning to collect toys, gift cards and monetary donations for the holiday season. Can you help?

In December, the Holiday Drive distributes new toys and books for kids, Target gift cards for teens, and grocery store gift cards for seniors, and matches select families with donors for individualized sponsorship.

### Get involved by:

- Purchasing new, unwrapped toys for children of all ages. Especially needed are toys for kids ages 9-11 (science and craft kits, sports supplies, etc.).
- Contributing \$20 Target gift cards for teens or \$20 Giant gift cards for seniors.
- Donating by check, made out to "Rockville Holiday Drive Fund," or online at [www.rockvillemd.gov/](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/)

holidaydrive. (Donations are tax deductible and checks can be made payable to the City of Rockville and sent to 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850. Please add "Rockville Holiday Drive Fund" to the memo line of the check).

To organize a toy drive in your school, office or community, contact Allison Hoy at 240-314-8304 or [ahoy@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:ahoy@rockvillemd.gov).

Donations will be accepted at City Hall (111 Maryland Ave.) and at Rockville community centers. The donation deadline is Thursday, Dec. 19. ✚



**BACK IN THE DAY ...** Volunteers were going door to door in Twinbrook in September 2000. "What do you like about the neighborhood? How can neighbors work better together?" they asked. The questions were an attempt to discover how and if Twinbrook's residents communicated, and to understand "points of conflict," according to the "Rockville Reports" of the time. The Mediation Pilot Program, as it was known, was intended to "help them help themselves build on their sense of community," Human Rights and Community Mediation Administrator Maile Beers-Arthur said.



## Questions, Concerns or Ideas?

Reach out to Rockville City Manager Rob DiSpirito at [rdspirito@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:rdspirito@rockvillemd.gov) or 240-314-8102.



Get Into It

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